

spent in Bosnia already, somewhere around \$5 billion. I look at what we spent in Yugoslavia last year, \$11 billion.

Mr. Speaker, to help 12,000 men and women in uniform on food stamps would only cost \$59 million over 10 years.

I want to also make the point that this Congress last year passed an Omnibus Budget bill that had in excess of \$13 billion in pork barrel spending. Mr. Speaker, I say again, those of us who have the privilege to serve in the House and Senate, we must work together to help get these men and women off food stamps that are willing to die for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to come to the floor on a regular basis until the leadership, both Republican and Democrat, work together to help get these men and women off food stamps, because they are so important to the defense of this Nation. We owe them everything that we can give them and especially to help get them off food stamps. I thank the Members of this House, Republican and Democrat, who have co-sponsored this bill, H.R. 1055, the Military Family Food Stamp Tax Credit Act; and I hope this year we, as a Congress, will do what is necessary to get these men and women off food stamps.

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MARKING 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROWN CENTRAL PETROLEUM LOCKOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATourette). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of my colleague from North Carolina on our military pay. Hopefully we made a down payment last year and will continue it this year.

My concern, Mr. Speaker and Members, and what I want to talk about today is, we are marking the 4th anniversary for one of the longest lockouts in U.S. history that is in my district. On February 5, 1996, the management of Crown Central Petroleum ordered the union workers to leave its refinery in Pasadena, Texas, and lock the gates behind them. By the next day, the company had replaced all 252 union members with lower cost and inexperienced temporary workers.

What caused the lockout? The only possible reason is Crown Petroleum wanted to break the union. During the contract negotiations, the union stated they had no intentions of striking. In fact, Crown Petroleum's reaction was to order an immediate lockout. Before negotiators for the employees had a chance to react, they were escorted out of the refinery. Crown tried to justify the lockout by saying that they had committed actions of sabotage, and yet Crown later invited these same employees to return to work provided they agreed to the company's demands.

The concern I have, Mr. Speaker, is if someone did sabotage the plant, they need to be prosecuted under the laws, but management should not use it as a reason for not allowing these people to come back to work who had been there many years.

If they agreed to the company demands, it would have been an elimination of over 40 percent of the work force. These highly sensitive jobs, that are now performed by temporary and less skilled workers, were issues at the negotiating table that were very contentious.

The company was trying to rewrite the entire union contract and eliminate a third of the employees and eliminate the worker protections for older employees. The employees were willing to negotiate, but Crown not only wanted to have their demands met, they opted for a lockout. Four years, Mr. Speaker, is one of the longest lockouts in history.

Four years later, friends and neighbors, my constituents, are still not working. Their lives have been radically changed for standing up and insisting on safe and fair working conditions. Employees like Marshall Norman, a 16 year employee, had his medical insurance canceled while his wife was pregnant and his daughter was diagnosed with leukemia.

Another constituent, John Grant, served his country in Vietnam and as a Marine guard in the White House. He has only worked sporadically since the lockout. Hardy Smith, a 25 year employee, lost his credit and went from making \$18 an hour to \$6.50 an hour. Henry Godbolt, a 24-year employee, is struggling to make ends meet for his family, including paying for his daughter's education. He is working odd jobs like mowing lawns and washing windows.

These are good and honest hard working Americans who are being forced to struggle because their employer locked them out. We need to have an end to this madness.

For the last year, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to work and offer whatever assistance my office could to sit down and work it out between the plant owners and the employees, and we have not had any luck. Despite many years of hardships and fighting back to reclaim their lives, the Paper, Allied-Industrial and Chemical Energy Workers Union, PACE, which used to be the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, is the union that represents these locked out workers, along with the AFL-CIO, and they have been boycotting the Crown gasoline stations and convenience stores.

The locked out workers have traveled to Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama to promote this boycott and have urged union members as well as other concerned citizens to support them. The boycott, or the "Don't Buy Crown Gasoline" campaign is endorsed by groups ranging from the Rainbow/ Push

Coalition to the Environmental Defense Fund to the Labor Union Women. This is only a small sample of a long list of groups who have supported this boycott.

With the employees' hard work and persistence, along with the support of many groups and individuals, the boycott has been successful in decreasing the sales of Crown gasoline and its products. The boycott may become our only hope to bring reason back to this issue. I would hope that the management and the owners of Crown would realize that not only my constituents but their former employees want to work and want to do a good job and make that a producing plant. Let us end this nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, February 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., many of these hard working employees will mark the 4th anniversary of the lockout at the PACE local union at 704 Pasadena Freeway.

Mr. Speaker, I was home last week and met with a few of the members, and, believe me, I bought this T-shirt because they could not afford to give it to us, but it talks about trying to end the lockout at Crown Petroleum. I would hope that through this special order today that we could encourage not only the employees but also the management to sit down and get these people back to work.

ELIMINATE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, we have returned here in the year 2000 to begin our work as the U.S. House of Representatives. One of the first bills that we will take up will come on, I expect, February 14. The purpose of this is to address a problem which has been a festering issue in our Tax Code; namely, the so-called marriage tax penalty.

There has been widespread recognition that it simply is unfair and is inconsistent with public policy to have a Tax Code which places a burden on folks that choose to get married. Now, as we analyze the Tax Code, there is both a marriage bonus and a marriage tax penalty. It is a fairly complex issue as we work through it. And trying to root it out of the Tax Code is not necessarily easy nor is it inexpensive.

The Committee on Ways and Means, I understand, has marked up this bill today and will be sending it to the floor for consideration by Valentine's Day. That certainly is an appropriate or a fitting tribute to marriage as an institution in our Nation, but I submit that this is premature in terms of consideration on the floor of the House in the sense that there is a fairly high price tag to the bill that is coming from the Ways and Means, and we still have not had any opportunity to formulate a budget for operations here in the year 2000.